WETMORE & MORSE

BARRE

GRANITE FOR MEMORIALS

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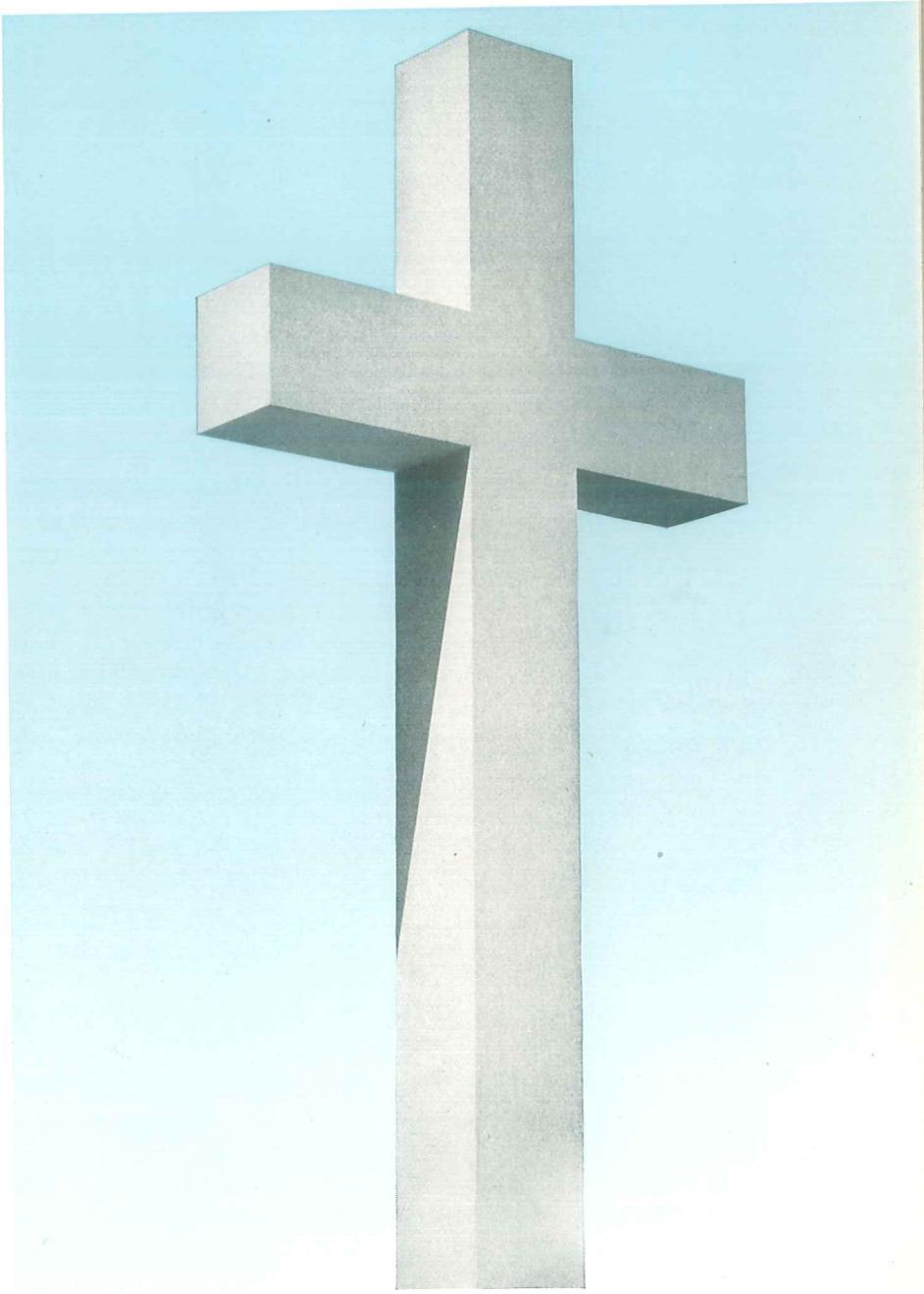
WETMORE & MORSE GRANITE CO
BARRE, VERMONT

The Perfect Tribute

Wetmore and Morse Certified Select Barre Granite



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ESTABLISHED 1862

BARRE, VERMONT

Compare this photograph taken in 1880, with the quarry scenes on the following pages

Eighty Years of Leadership in the Granite Center of the World

When in 1862 two young men of vision, Henry Wetmore and Azro Morse started operations on the very top of Millstone Hill in Barre they were pioneers in the quarrying of monumental granite. Little did they realize to what extent their early efforts were to affect the memorial business as we know it today. True enough, stone had been quarried hereabouts for a matter of twenty-five years but in a desultory fashion and as building and foundation stone only.

These young men and those who followed them not only pioneered the way but lived to see the Barre district become the Granite Center of the World.

With the very limited equipment available in those days the quarrying of this granite of extreme hardness was a Herculean task. All labor was manual or with the aid of oxen or horses and a job that today requires a matter of hours often consumed days and weeks of backbreaking work on the part of both men and beasts.

Starting at scratch these two young men soon assumed a leading position in the infant industry—a position maintained by the Wetmore & Morse Granite Company to this day—80 years later.

This book is intended simply to give you a better understanding of the large scale of operations necessary for the production of monumental granite. Herein are a few examples of memorials created in this finer material. Some are outstanding; others while less impressive in size are no less beautiful. All are tributes of permanence to those honored and a source of everlasting pride to those remaining. The first consideration of this company is now as always—Service plus Satisfaction—whether the stock is for the smallest memorial or the finest family mausoleum.

Your specification of Wetmore & Morse Certified Select Barre granite with our Certificate of Quality is your protection and an assurance of constant pride and lasting satisfaction to your customer.

Horsepower was just that in the 1880's. In this case about 50 H. P.

Until the introduction of steam, oxen and horses provided all motive power.

Production photographs of the Leland Stanford Mausoleum

In the above series of rather rare photographs it will be noted by the change of seasons that months were required to quarry and rough shape the large cap stone shown below in the finished memorial. This, the Leland Stanford mausoleum, is considered, now as then, one of the most beautiful examples of mausoleum architecture in the country. Standing in Palo Alto, California near the great university which now bears his name, it is a fitting tribute to the great educator.

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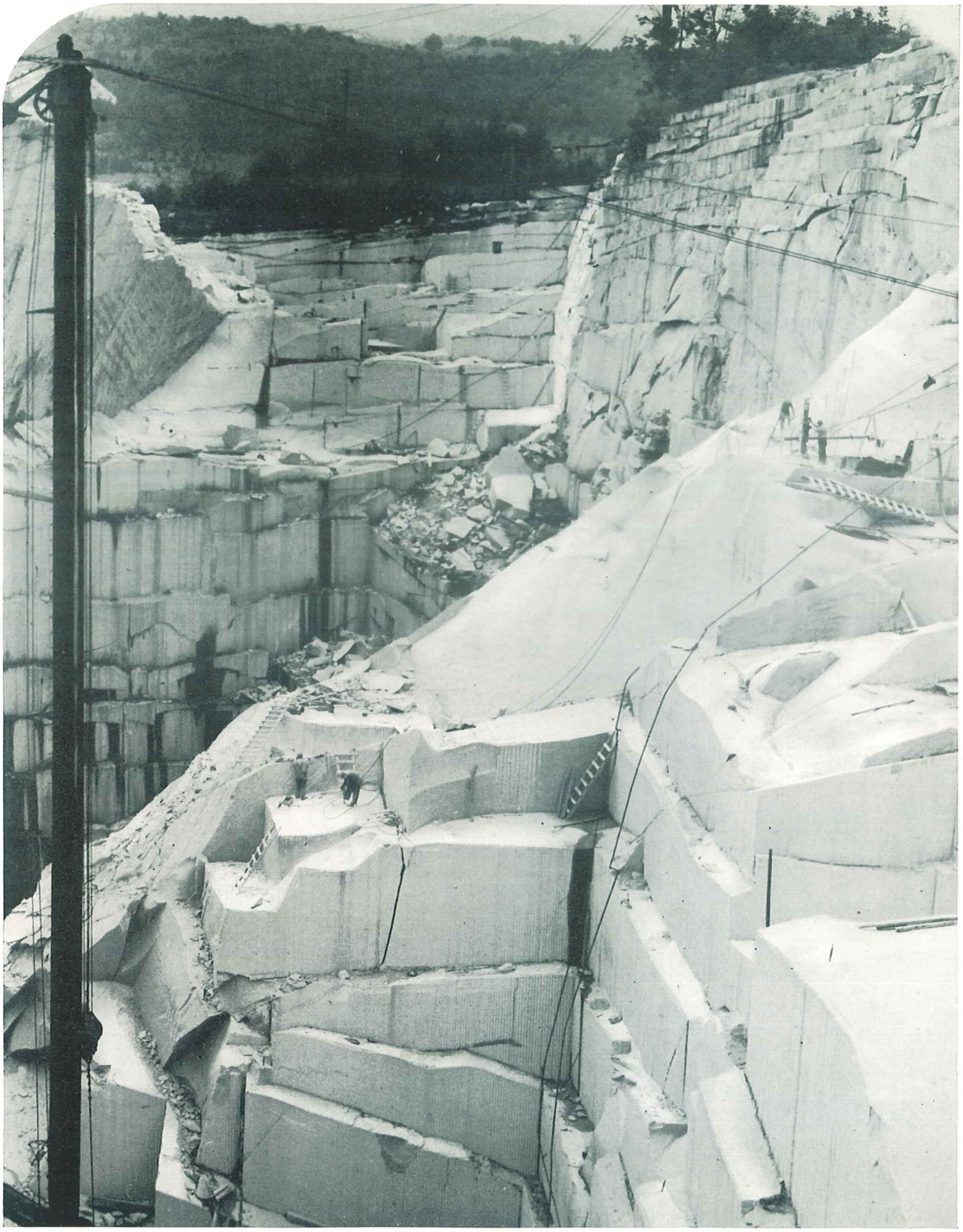
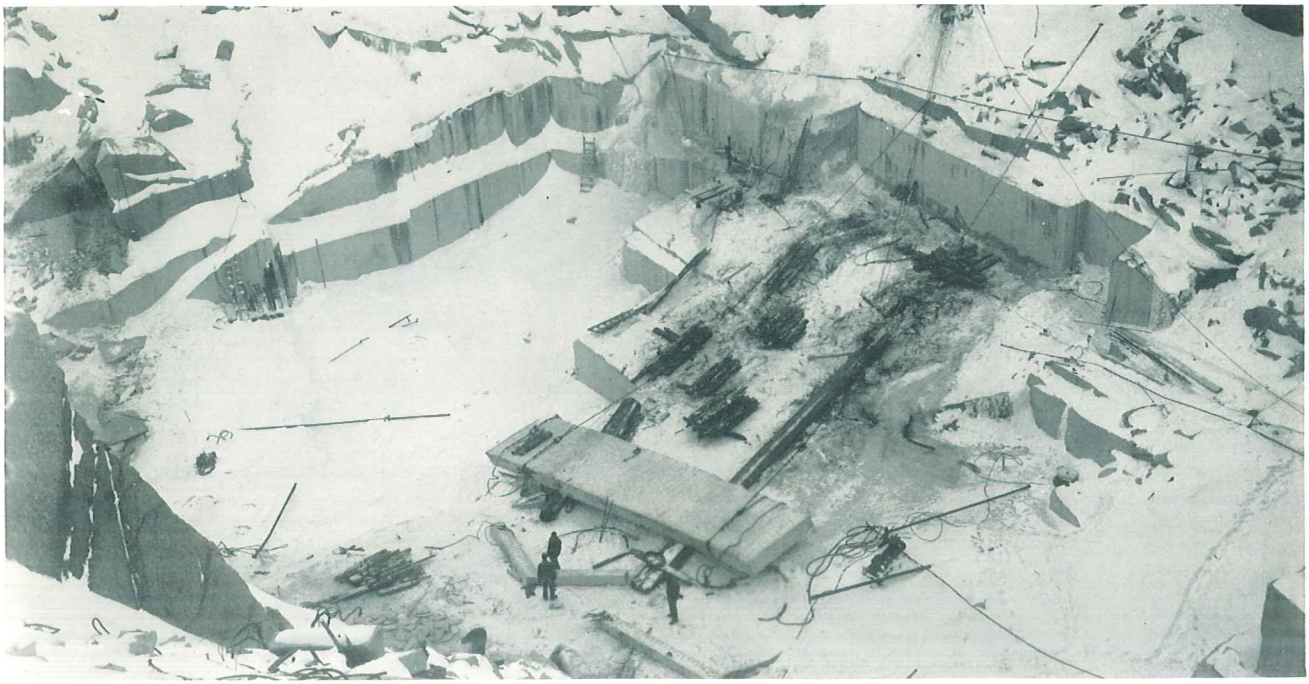
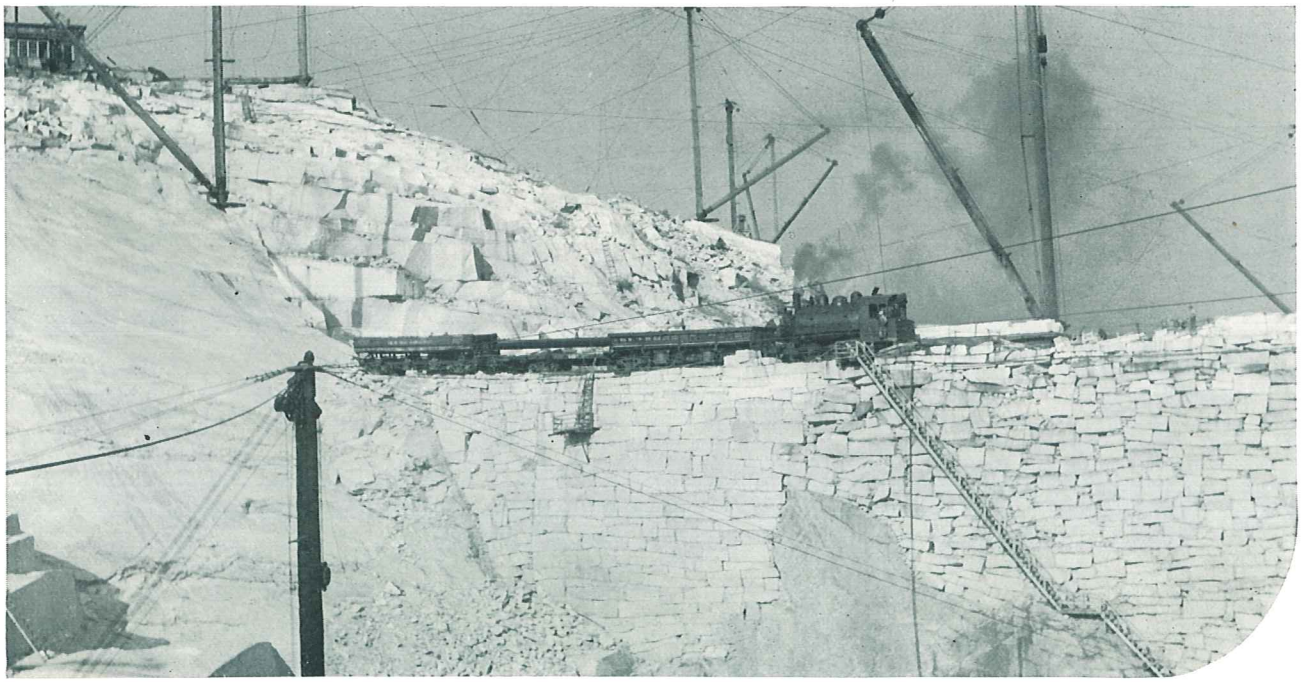


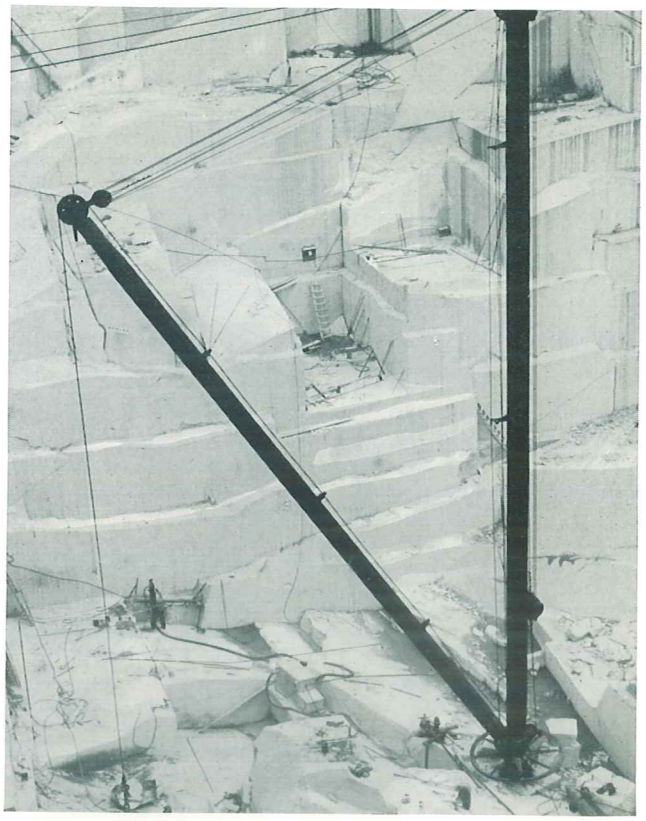


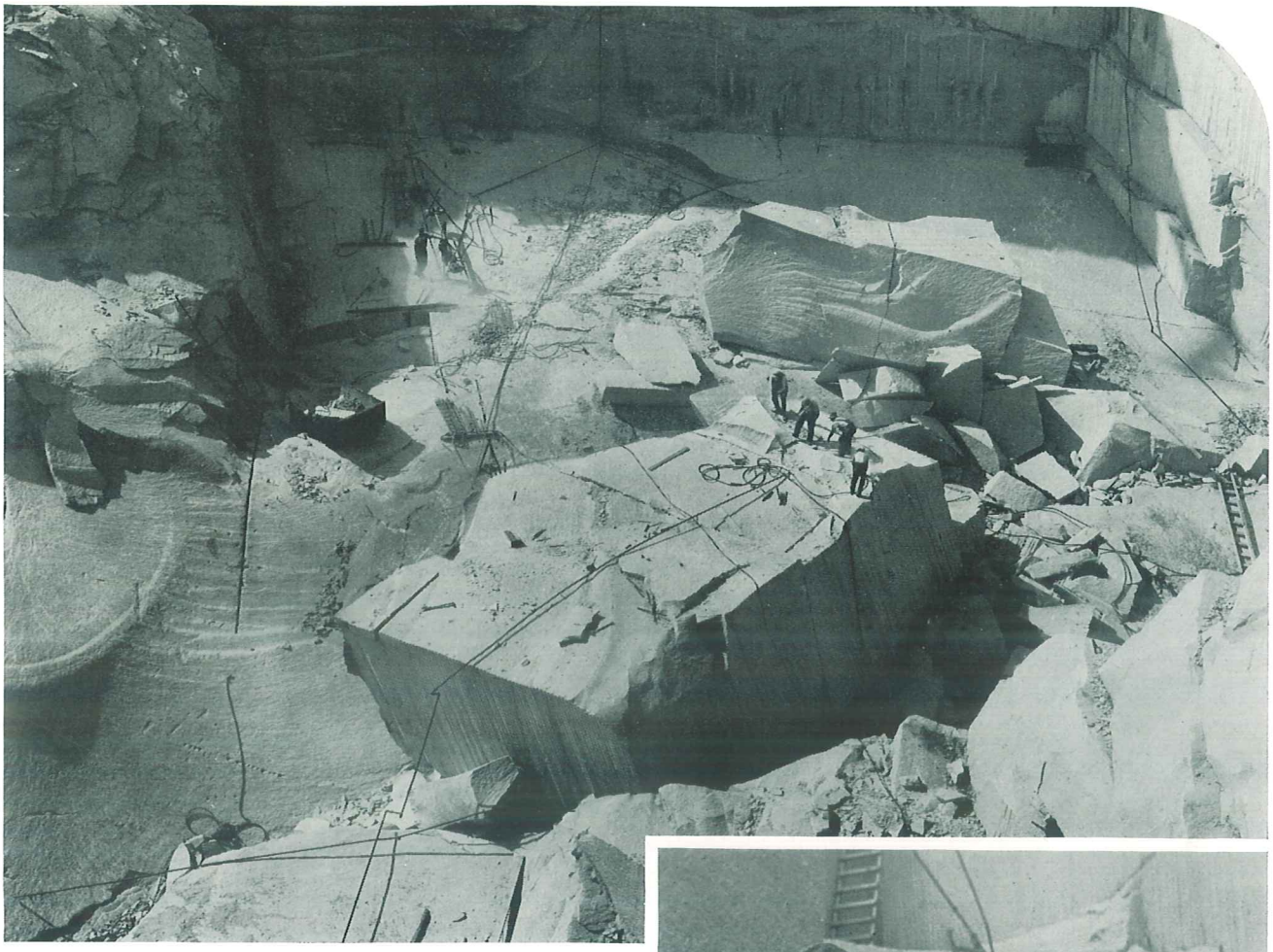
Through the blazing heat of summer and zero cold of winter the work of the quarry goes on. In winter the huge blocks are put into warming sheds before splitting to size, thus assuring more uniform patterns.

Above: a 40 foot roofstone is quarried in midwinter. Note that in spite of the extreme hardness of the granite the shape of the block as quarried requires the minimum of finishing work.

Below: our own railroad system shuttles rough stock to various yards of the quarry and to the main line for shipment. Derrick masts visible are of Oregon fir and average 100 feet in height.







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The combined quarries of Wetmore & Morse are among the world's largest and deepest. Upwards of one hundred men are usually employed. Proud of their trade and their company and jealous of the Wetmore & Morse reputation these men are among the best stone workers in the world. Descendants of the pioneer quarrymen in many cases these men have grown up "on the Hill" and have a feeling for stone obtainable in no other way.

Above and right: are secondary stages of production. The huge block in the top photograph has just been freed. An idea of its great size is apparent by comparison with the workmen. Note on the facing page how evenly the sheets run. This enables us to supply dimension stone to order with a maximum of service.

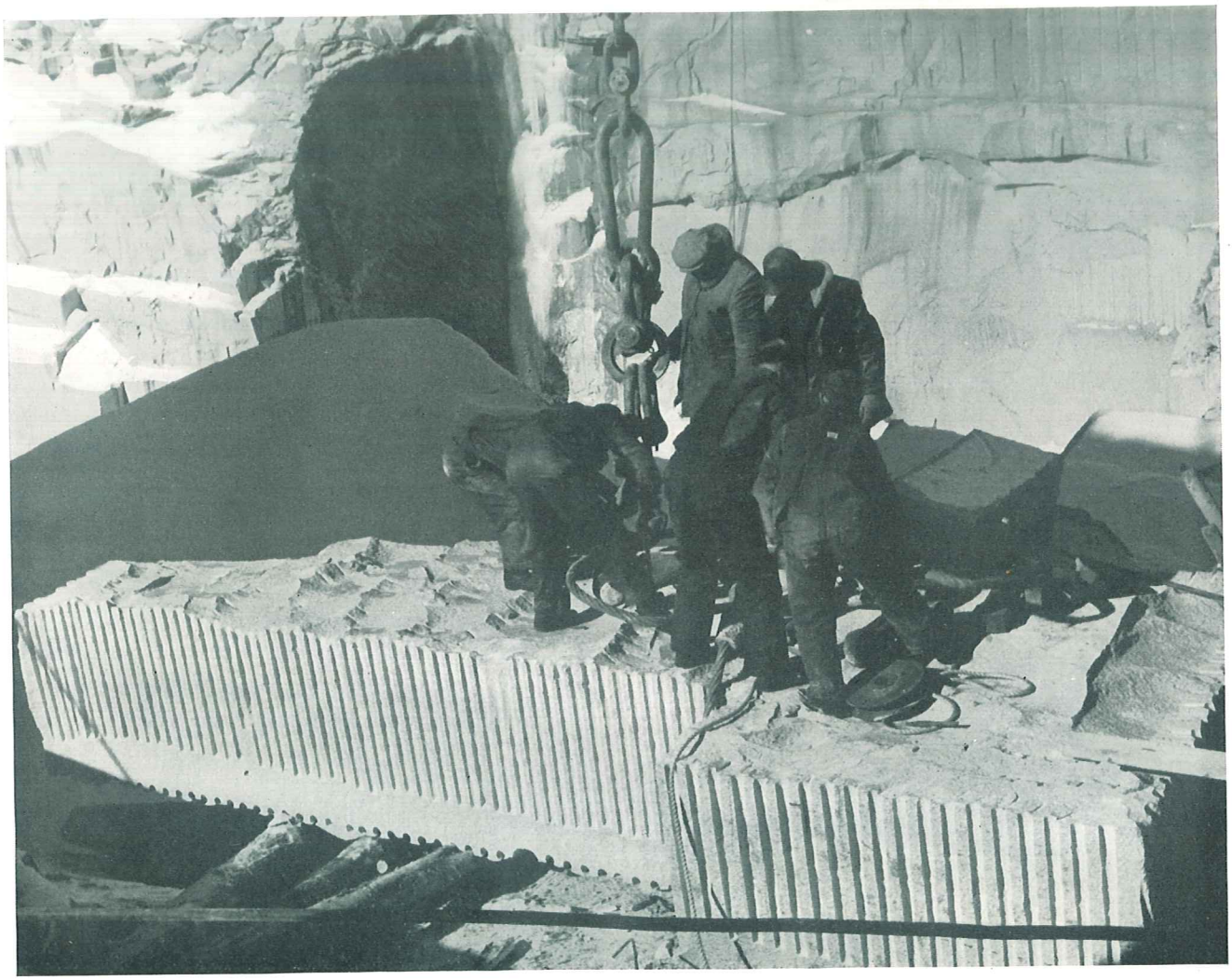
While the granite business has seen many changes in the past eighty years there is still no substitute for judgment, experience and "a feeling for stone." The introduction of machines and appliances has eased the quarryman's lot and made it immeasurably safer but "hard rock men" are still the pride of Barre.

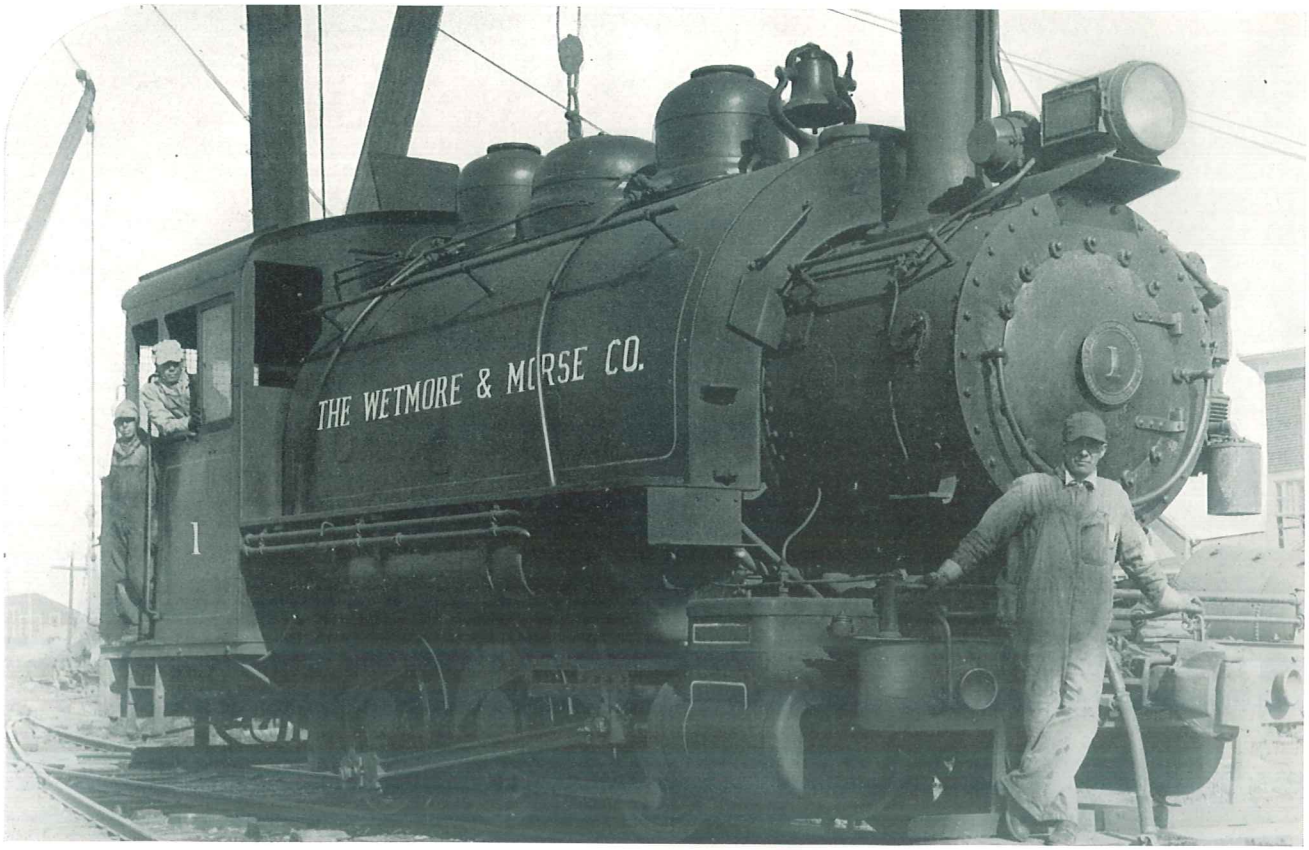
On the opposite page: at top, splitting on a line of foot holes; *lower and insert:* Lyner drills make a series of holes to a determined depth after which they are broached. Note suction hoses for dust removal.

On this page: a roughed out block which, in the manufacturer's shop, will soon be a large cross. When mounted on its base it will tower some thirty-eight feet above the ground; weight, approximately 40 tons. Note size of cable and chain necessary.

Right: Up and over on the way to the car.

Below: Rigid precautions promote safety of men and materials.





Not streamlined but exceptionally efficient is the rolling stock of our own railroad with its three man crew. Shuttling back and forth to all points of the quarry "the Iron Horse" plays a vital part in speeding up deliveries.

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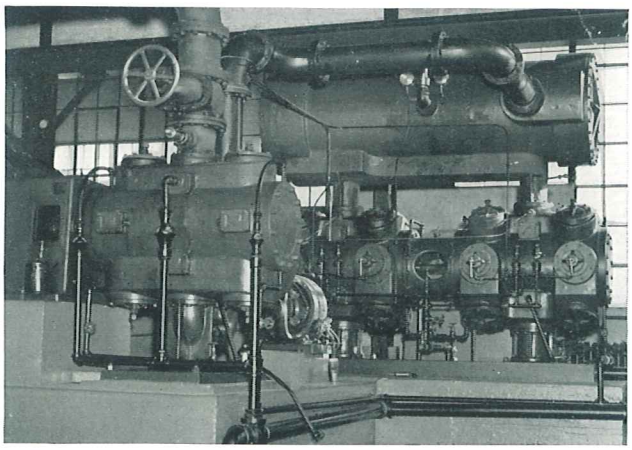
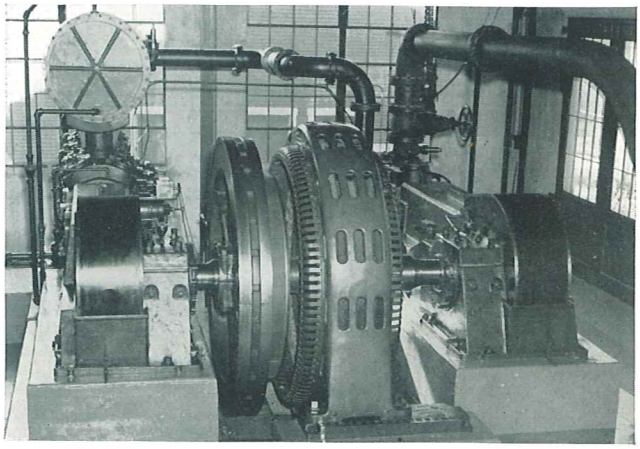
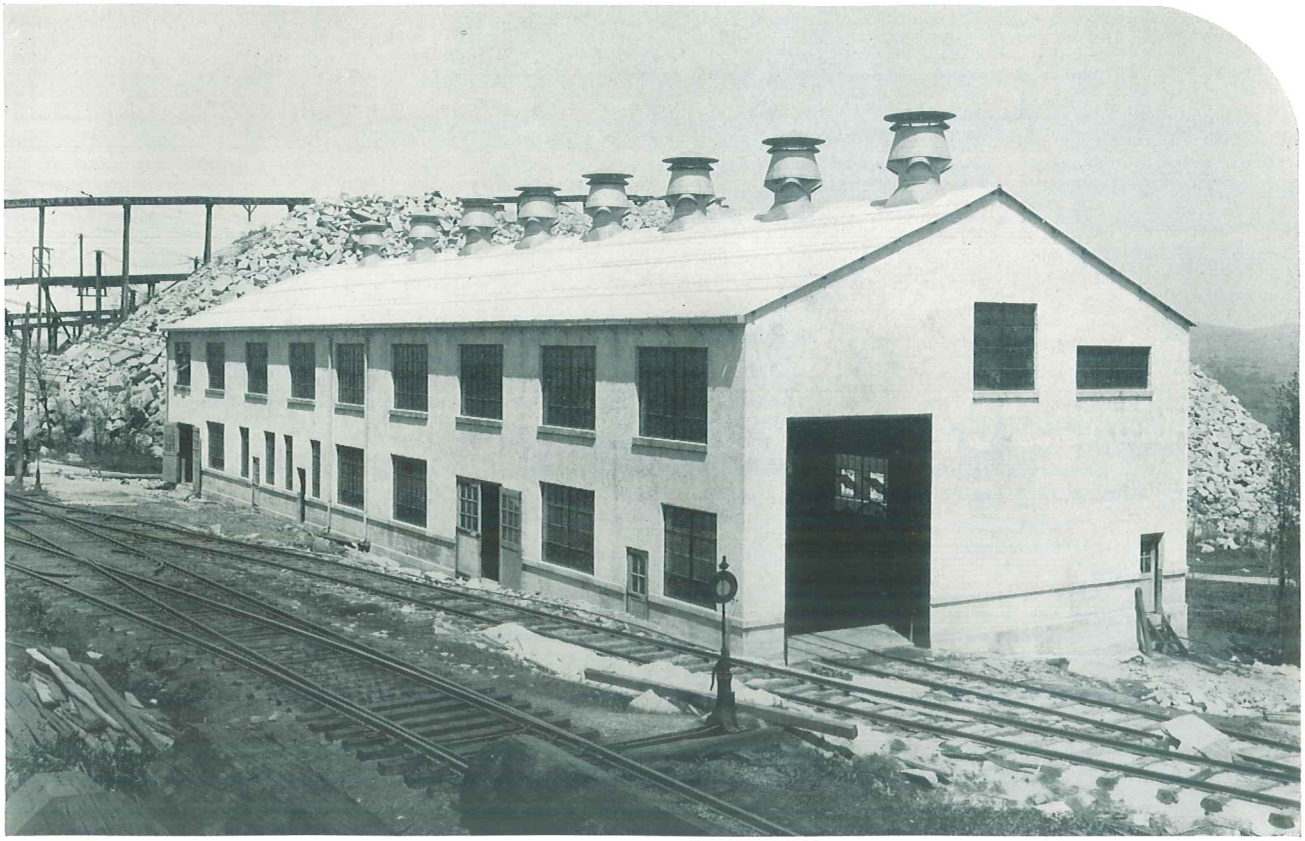
Mammoth compressors deliver the air pressure essential to all drilling. Shown below in our modern compressor house, these provide a maximum of 4500 cubic feet of air per minute. A head of 100 pounds pressure is kept in the air lines at all times.







Pride of the mechanical department is this modern machine shop and forge plant. Good light and air, the latest in mechanical equipment promotes efficiency, safety and health. Here the wedges, bars, drills, chains, etc., are kept in top working order. Ingenious drill sharpening machines are constantly busy.

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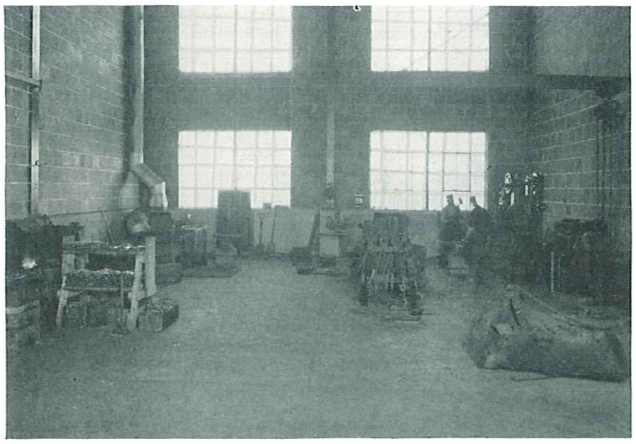
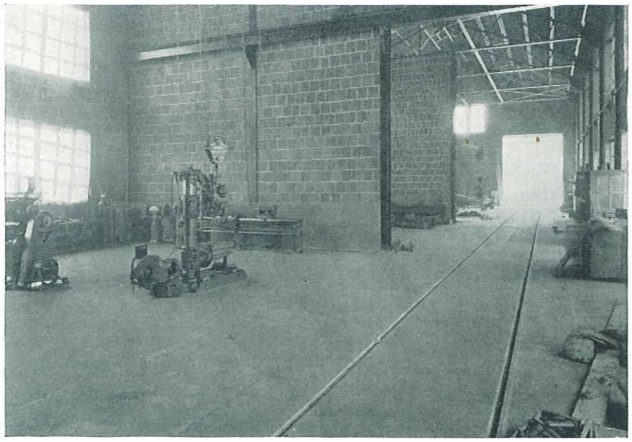
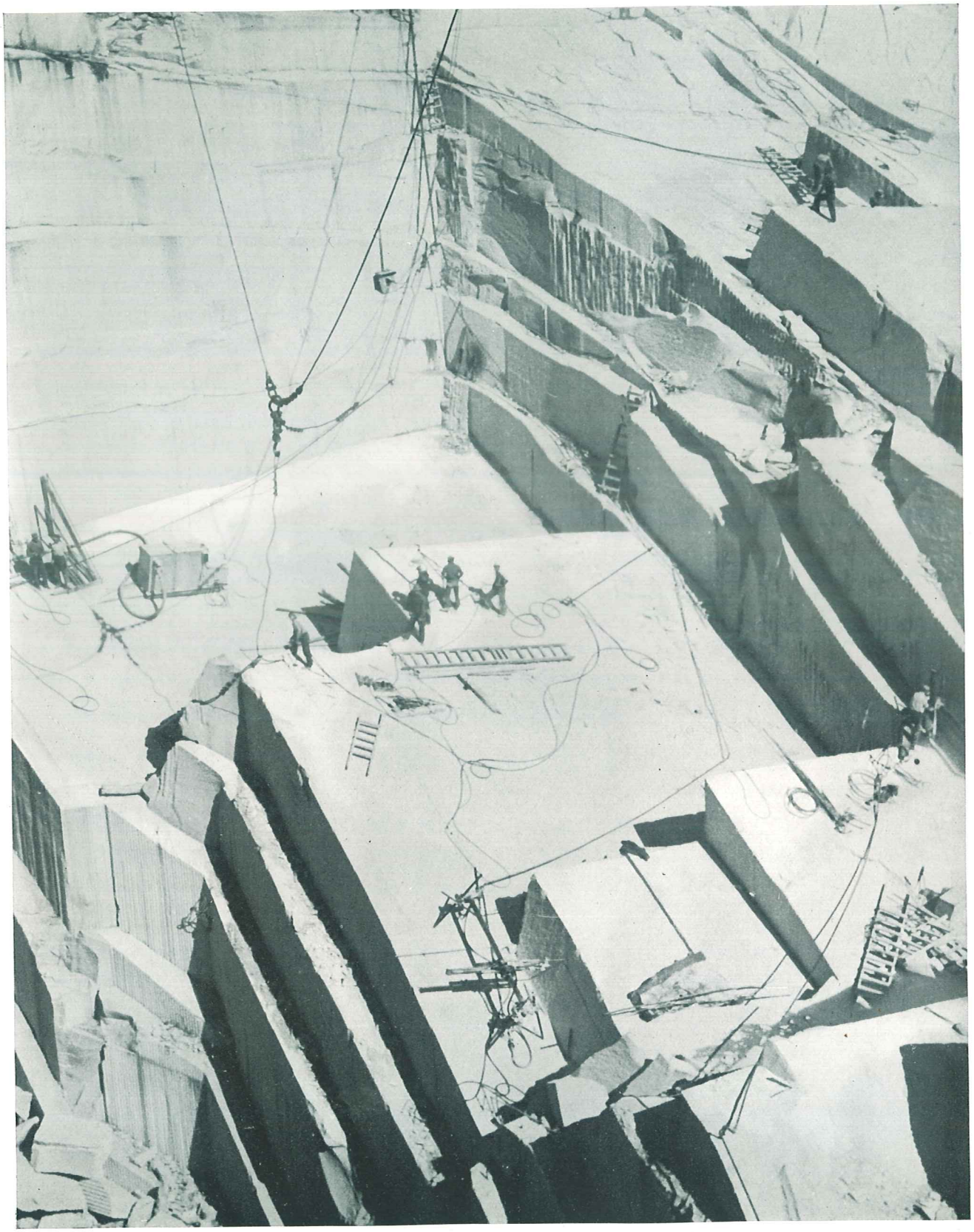
Also in this building are the blacksmith shop and tool rooms.



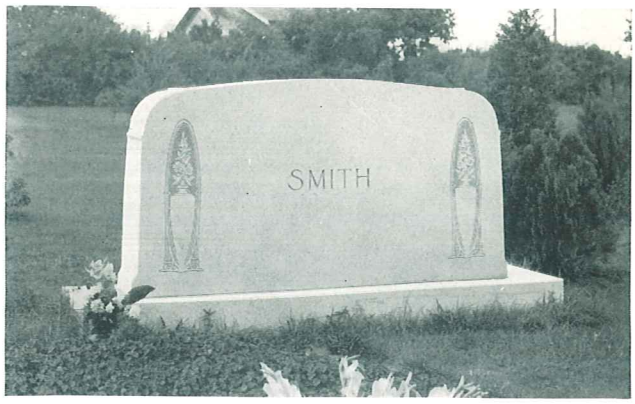
Several railroad cars may be run directly into this shop.



Long Shot



Close Up



Lending itself admirably to all methods of manufacture, Wetmore & Morse Select Barre granite is superb in the axed or hammered finish. It is significant to note here that in the nationally famed cemeteries of Barre, the resting place of Barre's own craftsmen and their families, that more than 85 per cent of the memorials are so finished. To a great extent this holds true in the better memorials in the nation's cemeteries since axing not only preserves but enhances the original beauty of the stone and is the result of painstaking work on the part of master craftsmen. Moreover it has the added distinction of adapting itself most readily in whatever surroundings it is placed.

Delicate carved work and lettering on W&M stock takes and holds the finest of edges assuring a permanence of beauty unexcelled in any stone.

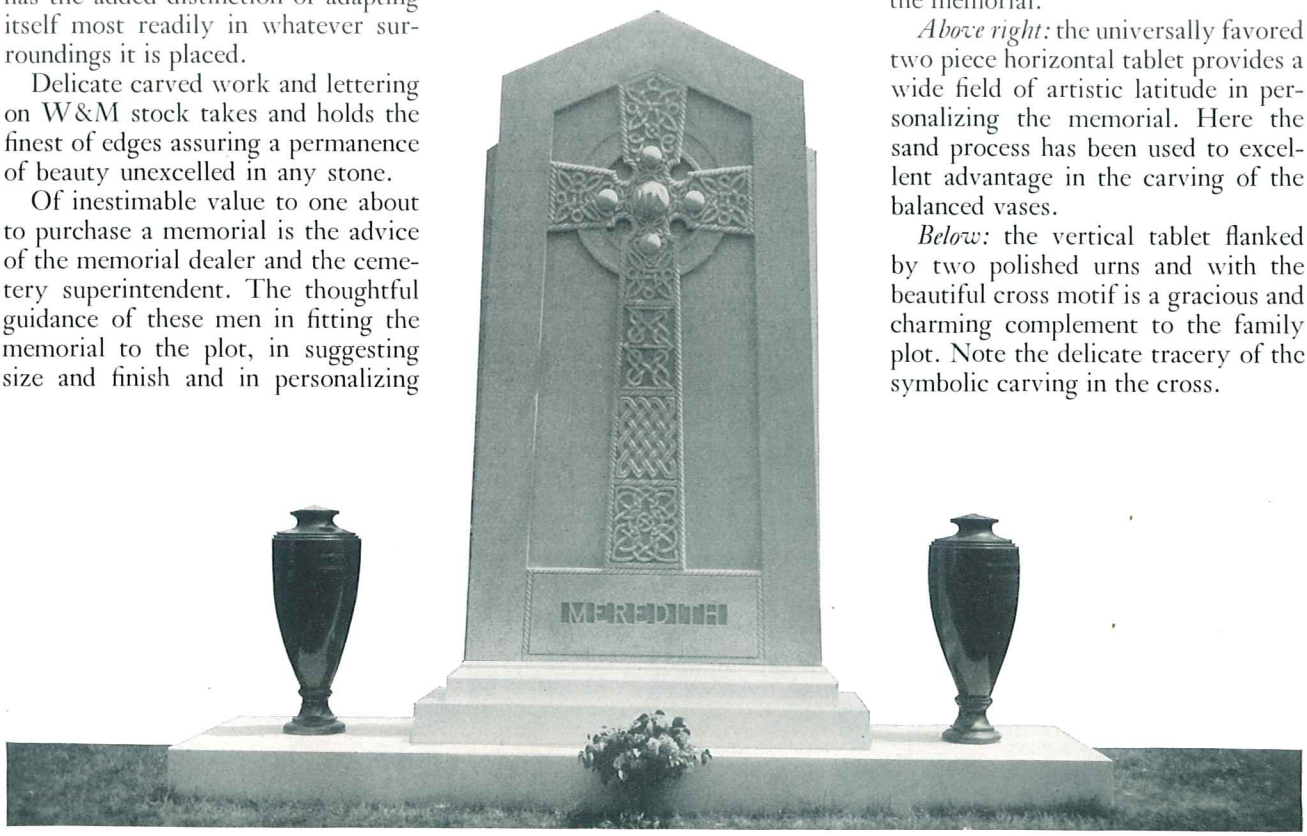
Of inestimable value to one about to purchase a memorial is the advice of the memorial dealer and the cemetery superintendent. The thoughtful guidance of these men in fitting the memorial to the plot, in suggesting size and finish and in personalizing the memorial insures your constant pride in a tribute which will be as beautiful in the sight of generations to come as it is when erected.

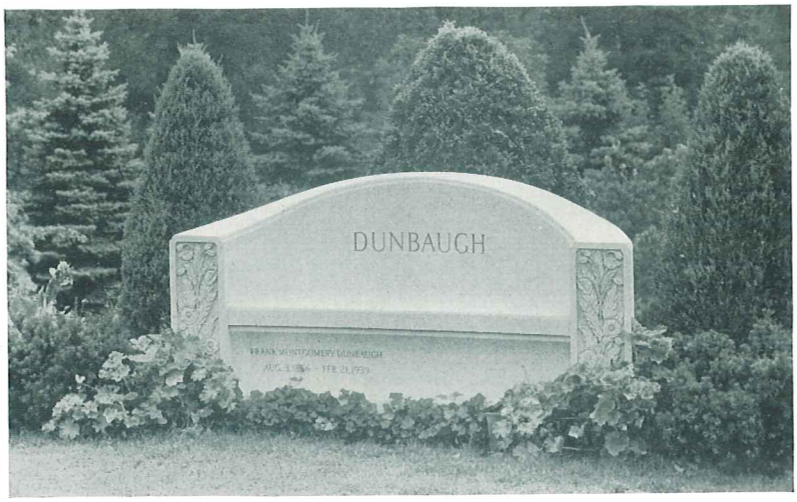
The examples on this and the following pages have been selected with an eye to demonstrating that whatever size or type of memorial is chosen, the stock of which it is created should be a primary consideration.

Above left: an artistic adaptation of the Colonial headstone in a monolithic monument. In this case the artist has used the minimum of decoration relying strongly on proportion, line and lettering to bring out the beauty of the memorial.

Above right: the universally favored two piece horizontal tablet provides a wide field of artistic latitude in personalizing the memorial. Here the sand process has been used to excellent advantage in the carving of the balanced vases.

Below: the vertical tablet flanked by two polished urns and with the beautiful cross motif is a gracious and charming complement to the family plot. Note the delicate tracery of the symbolic carving in the cross.





Directly above: the exedra with its flowing lines of serene beauty. Originally a seat of contemplation, this ancient design in the modern manner seems to endow this plot of ground with everlasting peace.

Top left: a classic portal design again showing the returning colonial influence in its severe but not austere simplicity. As through the door to the greater life.

Below: another of the popular horizontal tablets which are in basic good taste throughout the world. The Gothic panels transmit the message of light and life as through a church window.

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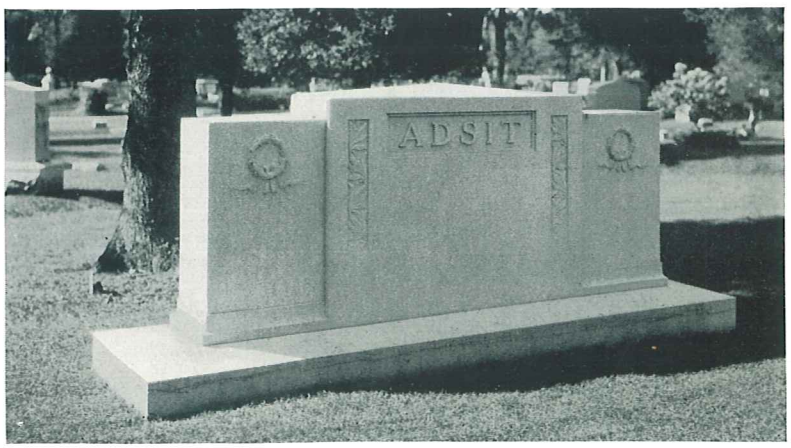
Above: this adaptation of the vertical tablet and wings forming the screen has been most successful in the hands of the artist designer. With its symbolic emblem and floral carving it is a commanding tribute.

Left: the Celtic cross with its delicately beautiful tracery of carving symbolizing Eternal Life is a justly popular choice throughout the world. A constant source of pride and consolation.

Below: the screen type with setback wings gives a vision of quiet strength to this finely proportioned memorial. The wreath carvings on the wings speak of eternal peace.



The two crypt sarcophagus above with the wings carrying the inscriptions and the beautifully proportioned steps the epitaph is a far cry from the heavy and often unsightly sarcophagus of old.

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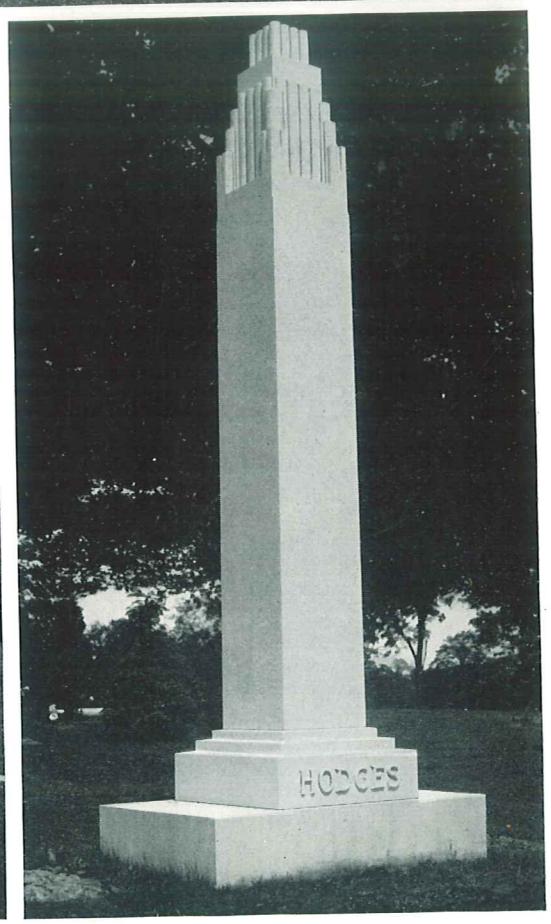
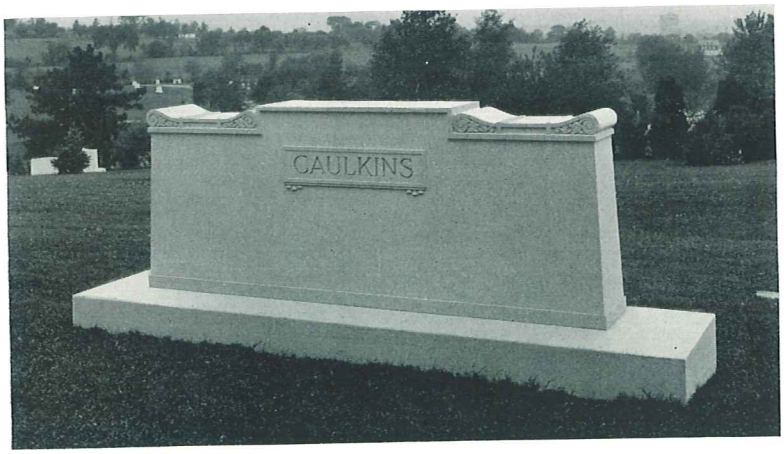
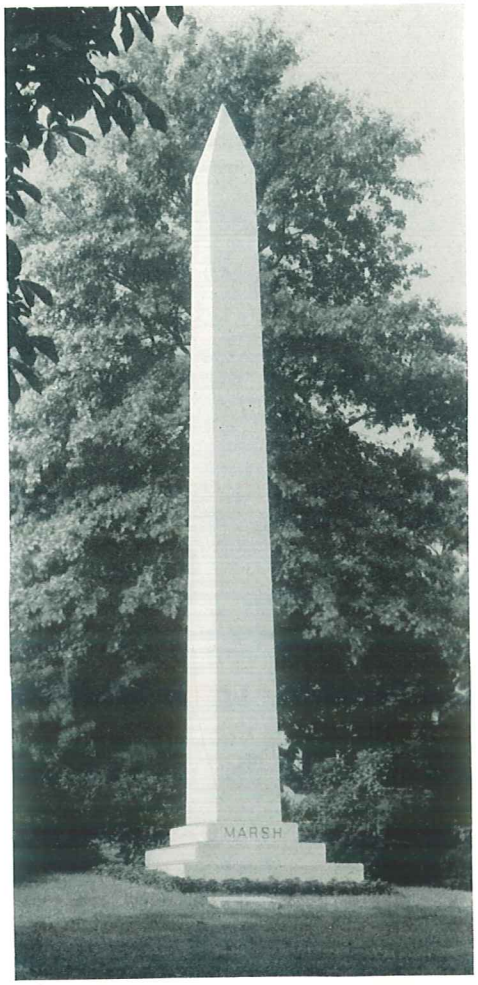
At right: a stylized treatment of the obelisk or spire. This modern rendition loses nothing of the feeling that this type of memorial has ever had in the hearts of men.

Below: another screen type with the central portion set off by the flow of the scroll work on either side.



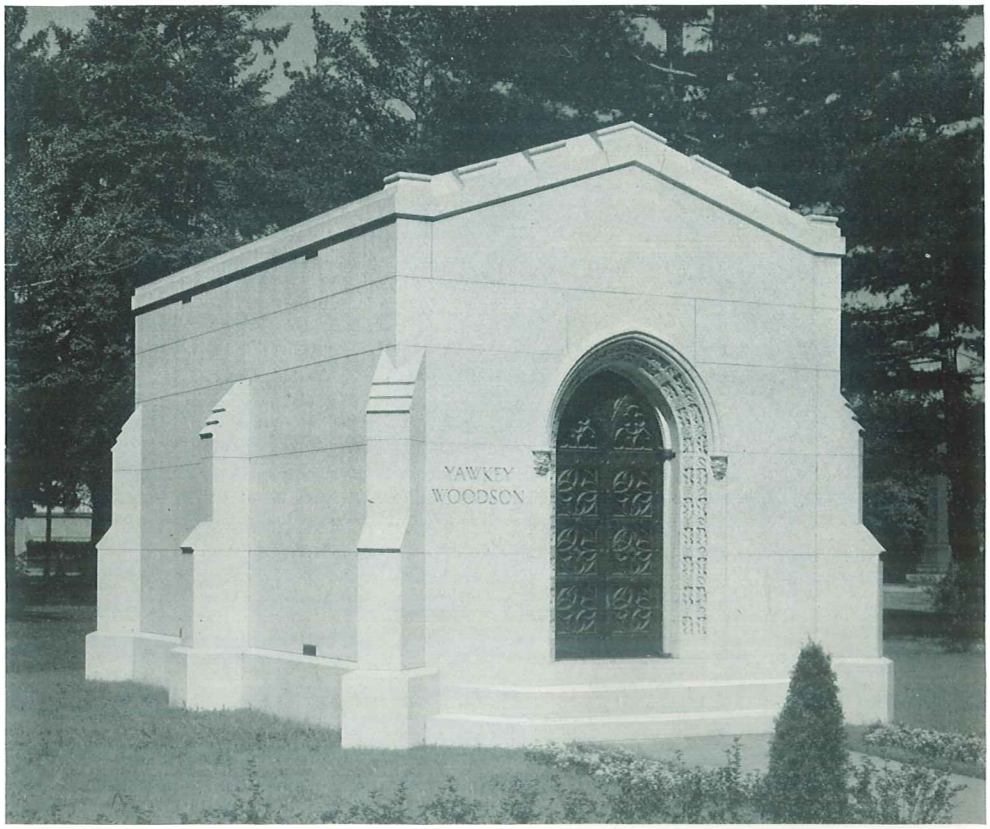


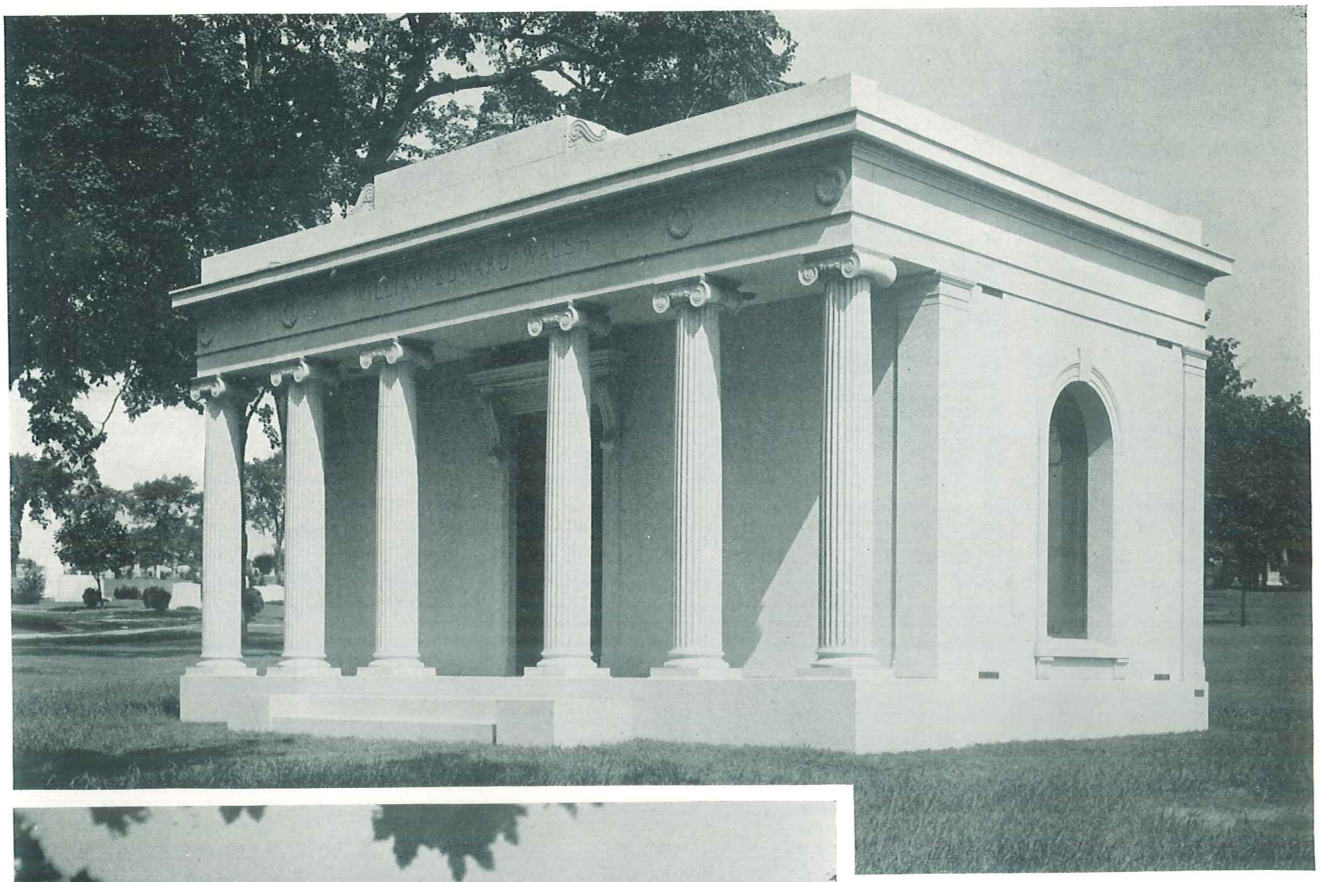


Directly above: a particularly lovely rendition of the multiple columnar in pergola form. *Left:* the true obelisk, possibly the oldest type of memorial since it has come down to us from earliest Egyptian times. This beautiful spire reaching toward the sky against a delicate lace of leaves is truly an inspiration to all who gaze upon it. *Below:* the multiple columnar, eminently fitting for the large family memorial or for a public or civic tribute. The true curve of this fine example gives a feeling of guardianship to the plot.

On the right: the copyrighted Yawkey-Woodson mausoleum in the modified Gothic design with simulated masonry walls is a recent addition to the great number of family memorials specified in Wetmore & Morse stock.

Below: the Forbrich mausoleum with its two Doric columns guarding the portal attains a perfect affinity with the surroundings. The massive urns crowned with ferns lend a note of further unity.





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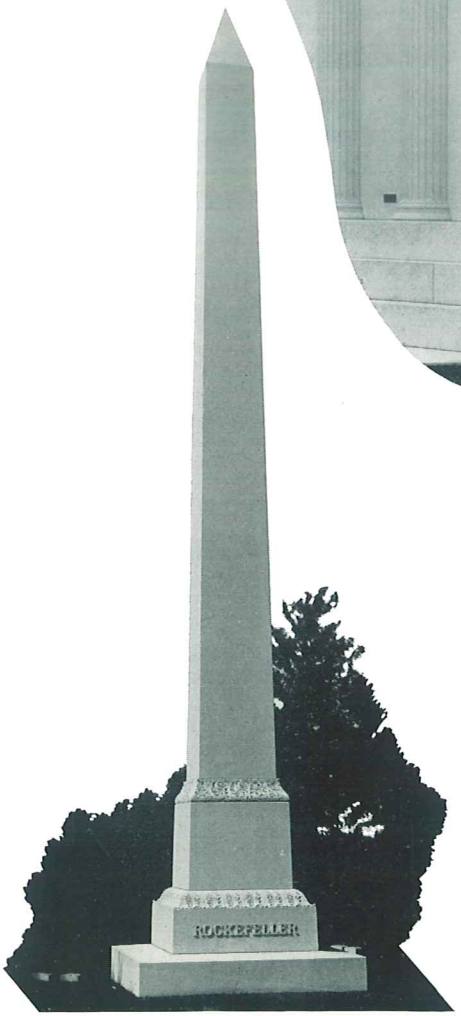
Two of the outstanding architectural triumphs in the memorial field are the Walsh and Horlick mausoleums on this page. The Walsh, reminding of an ancient Greek temple is a superbly proportioned family memorial of classic beauty.

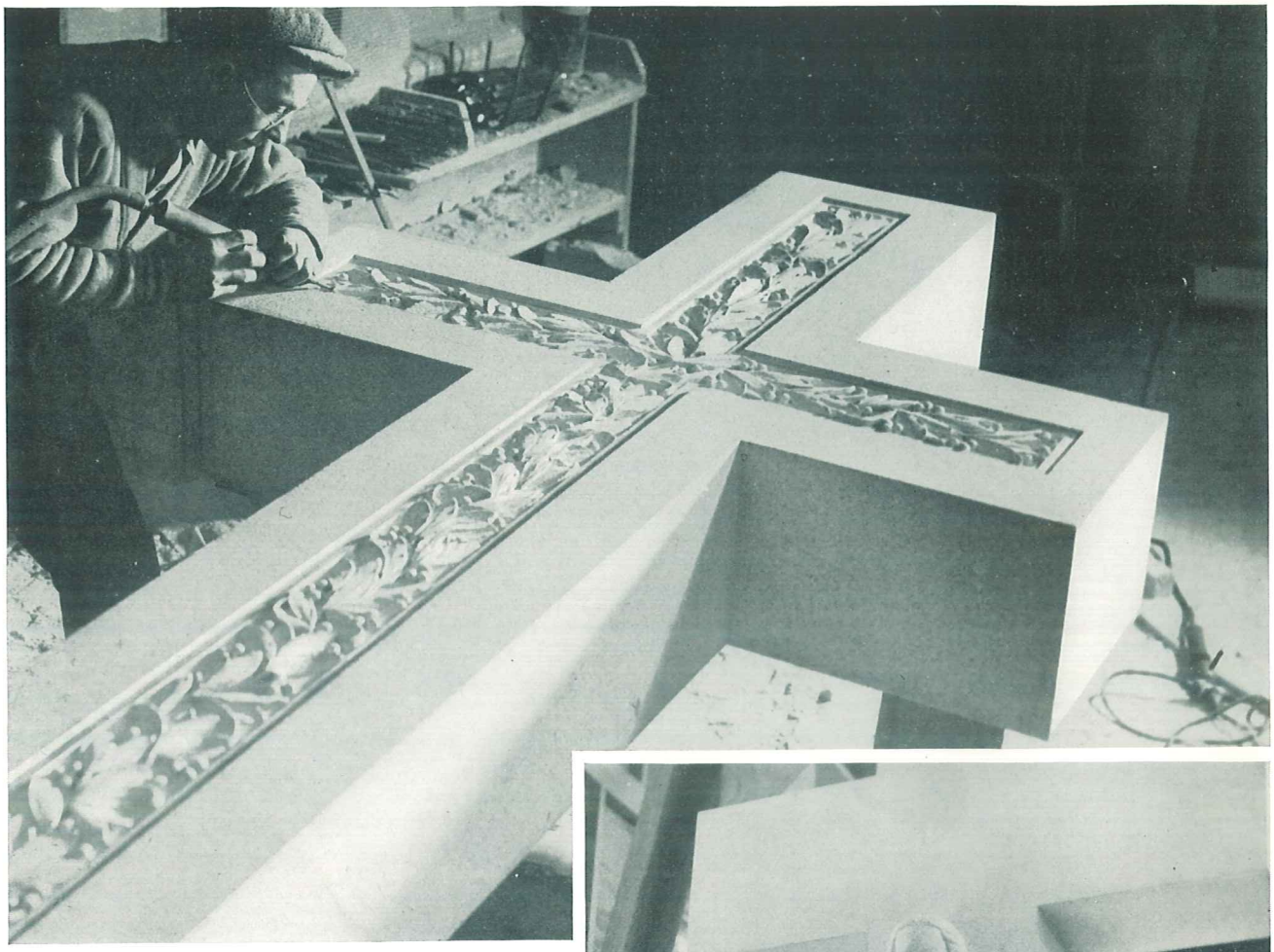
The William Horlick mausoleum is in the Classic tradition. With the greenery in the beautifully turned urns flanking the steps and shaded by majestic trees the sense of everlasting peace and close community with the growing things of life is most compelling.



For many years the Rockefeller family have been users of Wetmore & Morse granite. The first instance of this is in the majestic spire erected for John D. Rockefeller in Cleveland, Ohio. Towering approximately seventy-five feet in height it is a most impressive though simple tribute to the late great financier.

Above: is the William Rockefeller mausoleum in Tarrytown, New York. Again in the perfect taste achieved through a combination of excellent design, perfect setting and a superior medium.

Below: the John D. Rockefeller shaft is loaded at our quarry ready for shipment to the finishing plant.



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Only lack of space and the limitations of the photographer's art prevent us from giving more detailed pictures of the results obtainable with Wetmore & Morse granite. Suffice it to say that the finest sculptors in the granite world, men who have worked with stone a lifetime, have repeatedly expressed a preference for this medium. They tell us that they can work on it with the fullest confidence that the finished memorial is not only true to their concept but enhanced by the beauty of the stone itself.

Specification of Wetmore & Morse Certified Select Barre Granite for a memorial is the first step toward "The Perfect Tribute."

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